

To: R7 Daily Digest Group[R7_Daily_Digest_Group@epa.gov]
From: Washburn, Ben
Sent: Thur 12/4/2014 10:26:58 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 12/4/14

OPA Daily Digest for 12/04/14

Congressional Inquiries:

None

State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

Wall Street Journal – John Emshwiller – 10/31/14: Questions regarding West Lake site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

KSN-TV (Wichita) – Darren Dedo – 11/17/14: Requesting status updates and interviews for Wichita Superfund sites. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Jacob Barker – 11/21/14: Requesting interview about West Lake Landfill. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

Iowa Farmer Today, Cedar Rapids, Iowa – Jeff DeYoung – 12/4/14: Arranged an interview for the regional administrator about agricultural outreach to livestock producers, Iowa livestock

inspections and EPA's role. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

Mason City Globe Gazette - Is more EPA delay on RFS a good sign? (Editorial) - 12/4/14 -

While another delay by the Environmental Protection Agency in making a decision about the Renewable Fuel Standard creates frustrating uncertainty within the renewables industry, we hope it also signals a change in EPA position.

http://globegazette.com/news/opinion/editorial/is-more-epa-delay-on-rfs-a-good-sign-editorial/article_f928efc4-0b80-57d8-beae-3f1bae776246.html

Jefferson City News Tribune - Blunt increases effort to block EPA 'Clean Power'

regulations - 12/4/14 - Blunt, a Republican — and other members of Missouri's congressional delegation — have complained for months about the Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to reduce coal as an energy source for America's power plants.

<http://www.newstribune.com/news/2014/dec/03/blunt-increases-effort-block-epa-clean-power-regul/>

St. Louis Public Radio - New Health Survey Fails To Dispel Concerns About Industrial Contamination In North St. Louis County - 12/4/14 - In the late 1980s, the industrial chemical trichloroethylene, or TCE, was first detected in groundwater under the North St. Louis County neighborhood. The contamination came from spills at the nearby Missouri Metals Shaping Company.

<http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/new-health-survey-fails-dispel-concerns-about-industrial-contamination-north-st-louis-county>

Omaha World Herald - Asarco appeals to regulators in dispute with Union Pacific - 12/4/14 -

The lead and copper mining company Asarco is appealing to federal regulators in its dispute with Union Pacific over lead pollution along railroad lines, wanting to make sure the \$1.8 billion it paid for cleanups is effective.

http://www.omaha.com/money/asarco-appeals-to-regulators-in-dispute-with-union-pacific/article_33b7df66-7ad1-5aad-b421-90d4ec987672.html

FuelFix - Industry report: Production up, but methane emissions fall - 12/4/14 - Methane emissions fell over a two-year period at major oil and gas fields across the U.S., according to a new report from the industry-funded Energy in Depth website. The report looked at EPA data on methane, a potent greenhouse gas that can leak from equipment into the atmosphere, and showed that even as oil and gas production rose between 2011 and 2013, methane emissions fell.

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2014/12/03/industry-report-production-up-but-methane-emissions-fall/>

Liberty Tribune - New chemical disinfects city tap water - 12/4/14 - The city of Liberty is now adding a chemical called monochloramine to the municipal water supply, which officials say will improve disinfection and further protect the public from waterborne diseases.

http://www.libertytribune.com/news/article_8a32b9ca-dee6-5615-97ab-23a80b3aa92b.html

Capital Press - EPA to farmers: 'Trust us' - 12/4/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers need to revisit their proposed "waters of the United States" rule in order to start rebuilding trust among farmers and ranchers.

<http://www.capitalpress.com/Opinion/Editorials/20141204/epa-to-farmers-trust-us>

Bloomberg BNA - EPA, Corps May Withdraw Interpretive Rule On Permit-Exempt Conservation Practices - 12/4/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers haven't ruled out the option of withdrawing a non-binding interpretive rule that outlines agricultural conservation practices that would be exempt from Clean Water Act dredge-and-fill permits due to the confusion it has caused among farmers and ranchers, an Agriculture Department official said Dec. 3.

<https://www.bna.com/epa-corps-may-n17179917976/>

Houston Chronicle - Craft, Tison: EPA is right to strengthen ozone standard - 12/4/14 - Last week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, by the authority afforded through the Clean Air Act, proposed a strengthened health-based ozone standard within a range of 65-70 parts per billion.

<http://www.chron.com/opinion/outlook/article/Craft-Tison-EPA-is-right-to-strengthen-ozone->

[5933168.php](#)

WNAX Radio (Yankton, S.D.) - RFA Not Surprised Oil Companies Suing EPA - 12/4/14 - Renewable Fuels Association officials are not surprised oil industry groups are looking at suing EPA over their delay in getting out the 2015 RFS volumes.

<http://wnax.com/news/180081-rfa-not-surprised-oil-companies-suing-epa/>

The Hill - EPA must not hamper energy boom - 12/3/14 - As the 113th Congress comes to a close and we look ahead to next year, we have a great deal of work ahead of us. On the House Energy and Commerce Committee, we have many items on our “to do” list.

<http://thehill.com/opinion/op-ed/225919-epa-must-not-hamper-energy-boom>

E&E Publishing - EPA battles 3-front legal assault on chrome plating standards - 12/4/14 - U.S. EPA was forced to play a complicated defense today in federal court as environmental groups, two states and a trade association challenged its air standards for chrome plating facilities.

<http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060009857>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

12/4/14 – Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2) St. Louis Project Brownbag, Regional Office. Contact: Monica Espinosa, 7541

12/15-16/14 – Joint Region 7 & Region 8 Ag Meeting, Denver, Colo. Contact: Damon Frizzell, 7560

DRA:

12/2-3/14 – Attend the Four State Director's Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Dick Sumpter, 7661

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events**AWMD**

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

None

ENSV

None

PLMG

12/09/14 – Society of American Military Engineers National Conference, Kansas City, MO.
Contact: Chester Stovall, x7549

RA/OPA

None

SUPR

None

WWPD

12/9/14 – Meeting with Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact:
Karen Flournoy, 7782

12/15-16/14 – Joint Region 7 & Region 8 Ag Meeting, Denver, Colo. Contact: Karen Flournoy,
7782

12/8-12/14 – EPA Water Quality Standards Academy training, Washington, DC. Contact: Pete

Davis, 7372

Benjamin M. Washburn

Public Affairs Specialist

EPA Region 7

(913) 551-7364